

Pottery of the Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age Transition from the West Sussex Coastal Plain

The Roundstone Lane, Angmering,
assemblage

(with an appendix on the Bronze Age and Saxon pottery
from the nearby Bypass excavations)

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Technical report 5

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1. Introduction

1.1 Summary

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Roundstone Lane, Angmering, comprises 1481 sherds weighing approximately 15 kilograms ([Appendices 1–3](#)). Amongst it there are c. 26 dateable feature assemblages. These belong to two chronological groups, Middle Bronze Age (*hereafter* MBA), dated to between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries Cal BC, and transitional Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (*hereafter* LBA/EIA), dated to around the seventh century Cal BC (Table 1). Owing to the absence from them of significant finds of later material and the unabraded condition of many of the sherds comprising them, which suggests burial soon after breakage, most of these feature assemblages provide secure date the features from which they come. MBA dated features occurred in areas B and D and in evaluation trench T42. These include seven ditch-like features, a shallow pit, and several cremation burials. Well 614 has a *terminus post quem* of this date. LBA/EIA dated features occurred in areas A, B and D and in evaluation trench 10. These include a major ditch, a number of shallow gullies, and a number of pits. MBA and LBA/EIA (or possibly LBA) material also comes from undated and post prehistoric features in area C. A single feature in area C (gully 976) yielded an additional 90 sherds weighing 600 grams, which probably belong to the beginning of the Middle Iron Age Iron Age (*hereafter* MIA).

1.2 Method of analysis

The pottery was analyzed using the pottery recording system recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1992). All sherds were ascribed a fabric type on the basis of macroscopic examination. These were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and each diagnostic sherd was assigned to morphological/decorative and technological type. Dating of fabrics was by association with chronologically diagnostic feature sherds and other, associated fabrics.

1.3 Interpretative context

Previous work in Sussex west of the River Adur has yielded at least 12 significant assemblages of MBA date and 11 of LBA/EIA date. These comprise pottery belonging to, respectively, the Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* DR) and post Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* PDR) pottery traditions. For Sussex these traditions have been discussed in detailed by Barrett (1980, 311), Ellison (1972; 1978; 1980), and Hamilton (e.g. 1977; 1987; 1993; 2001).¹ The present report compliments this study by considering the relationship of the Roundstone Lane assemblage to the broadly coeval assemblage from the Angmering Bypass excavations nearby (see [Appendix 6](#)), and by placing these in the context of the MBA and LBA/EIA pottery traditions of Sussex as a whole. The site assemblages to which the present assemblage is most closely related are, for the MBA group, Mile Oak,

¹ A more recent summary can be found in Seager Thomas 2008

Shoreham (Hamilton 2002a), and Plumpton Plain (Hawkes 1935), and, for the LBA/EIA group, Chanctonbury Ring (Hamilton 2001) and Slonk Hill, Shoreham (Morris 1978). The probable MIA group is not closely paralleled locally.

2. Middle Bronze Age and Early First Millennium BC Pottery Fabrics

2.1 Summary

The Roundstone Lane prehistoric pottery assemblage comprises 16 fabric types. Most incorporate burnt flint and varying amounts and grades of quartz sand, and a few — all of them minority fabrics — incorporate shell and glauconite-rich sand. Many also incorporate unquantifiable amounts of organic material. Most of these fabrics occur in chronologically diagnostic forms within the Roundstone Lane assemblage, have closely dated regional parallels, or were consistently associated on site with dated material. Five belong to the MBA. This group comprises fine, intermediate and coarse wares. In terms of sherd numbers, however, coarse wares dominate it. The remaining eleven belong to the early first millennium BC. Three do not occur in forms that can be precisely dated and could belong to any period between the LBA and the EIA. The remainder, which includes all those with shell and glauconite inclusions, belong to the LBA/EIA. Like the earlier group, these comprise fine, intermediate and coarse wares. Most common are intermediate wares, but, unlike the coarse wares in the earlier group, these are not obviously dominant.

2.1 Middle Bronze Age Fabrics

For strength MBA fabrics tend to rely upon bulk rather than firing technology. Close Sussex parallels for Roundstone Lane MBA fabrics occur in assemblages from the Angmering Bypass ([Appendix 6](#)), Cock Hill (Ratcliffe-Densham & Ratcliffe-Densham 1961, 97), Mile Oak (Hamilton 2002a, 42–4), New Barn Down (Curwen 1934, 61), East Beach, Selsey (Kenny 1989, 17), and many other sites. All of these are poorly fired. By contrast similar grade flint-tempered wares from early first millennium BC sites are both better fired and thinner (e.g. Durrington, fabric F4) (Seager Thomas 2002b).

Fine ware

Fine flint, FF4

Moderate to common (15 to 20%) coarse sand sized burnt flint, and very rare (<1%) fine quartz sand. Friable. Body sherds at c. 6 mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic forms occurred in this fabric but it was stratified below MBA vessel no 30. It is both finer and thinner than is usual in Sussex MBA assemblages.

Intermediate ware

Medium to coarse flint, F4

Sparse to moderate (7 to 15 %) medium sand sized to small granule sized burnt flint, and rare (1%) fine quartz sand. Friable. Body sherds from c. 9 to 12 mm thick. Key forms in fabric F4 include vessel nos 28 and 38. Vessel no 38 is of MBA date. Vessel no 28 could be of MBA or LBA date.

Coarse wares

Coarse flint, CF2

Moderate (10 to 15%) coarse sand sized to small granule sized burnt flint, and rare (not precisely quantifiable) quartz sand. Very friable. Body sherds from c. 9 to 12 mm thick. Fabric CF2 is represented by vessels nos 21 and 30. Both of these are of MBA date.

Very coarse flint, CF3

Sparse to moderate (5 to 10%) coarse sand to granule sized burnt flint (with a greater proportion of fine grade material than CF4). Friable. Body sherds at c. 16 mm thick. Fabric CF3 is represented by vessel no 25. It is of MBA date.

Very coarse flint, CF4

Sparse to moderate (5 to 10%) coarse sand to granule sized burnt flint. Friable. Body sherds from 10 to 13 mm thick. Key forms in fabric CF4 include vessels nos 26, 27 and 46. These are all of MBA date.

2.2 Early First Millennium BC Fabrics

Owing to the differences between MBA and later pottery firing technology, it is easy to distinguish early first millennium BC from MBA fabrics within the assemblage. This applies irrespective of grade. If there is an overlap it is with later first millennium BC pottery. However, the three principal findspots of early first millennium BC pottery yielded only one later prehistoric feature sherd (no 2), and it is probably unnecessary to look outside this period (and more specifically the LBA/EIA) for dating. The early first millennium BC fabrics exactly reflect the wide range of forms associated with early first millennium BC pottery. Close Sussex parallels come from LBA Steyning, Mile Oak and Thundersbarrow Hill, which, in addition to an equally wide range of fabric types, yielded minority fabrics incorporating shell and glauconite similar to those from Roundstone Lane (Hamilton 1988, 64; 1993, 482–3; 2002a, 45).

Fine wares

Fine flint, FF1

Rare (2%) medium sand sized burnt flint, common fine to medium quartz sand, rare (1%) carbonaceous material, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds at c. 6 mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic forms occurred in this fabric, nor was it reliably associated with other dated sherds, but it is similar to fine wares in the LBA/EIA assemblage from East Beach, Selsey.

Fine flint, FF2

Sparse (3 to 5%) fine to coarse sand sized burnt flint, and ?moderate fine to medium quartz sand. Body sherds from c. 6 to 8 mm thick. The principal form in fabric FF2 is vessel no 4. This is of LBA/EIA date.

Fine flint, FF3

Moderate (15%) medium sand sized burnt flint, ?moderate (15%) medium quartz sand, rare (<1%) carbonaceous material, and rare (not precisely

quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds at c. 7 mm thick. FF3 is represented by vessel nos 5, 6, 11, 36 and 41. Vessels 5, 6 and 7 are of LBA/EIA date. Vessels 36 and 41 may be LBA.

Fine flint with glauconite, FFGlau

Sparse (5%) medium sand sized burnt flint, sparse to moderate (7–10%) medium glauconite, rare (1%) carbonaceous, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds from c. 6 to 7 mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic forms occurred in this fabric but its on site associations are primarily LBA/EIA. Sussex glauconite-rich fabrics date from the LBA. Their abundance increases through the early first millennium BC. The closest site to Roundstone Lane to have yielded them, Chanctonbury Ring, is of LBA/EIA date (Hamilton 2001).

Intermediate wares

Shelly, S

Sparse to moderate (5 to 10%) decalcified coarse sand sized to small pebble sized shell, sparse (5 to 10%) fine to medium quartz sand, ?common (not precisely quantifiable) carbonaceous material/chaff, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds from 6 to 9 mm. Fabric S is represented by vessel no 7. This could be of LBA or LBA/EIA date (shell tempering was certainly present in West Sussex — at Kingston Buci — during the earlier period). The fabric's on site associations, however, are primarily LBA/EIA.

Medium flint with shell, FS

Sparse (5%) medium to very coarse sand sized flint, patchy, rare to sparse (1 to 3%), coarse sand sized shell, and rare (1%) carbonaceous material. Body sherds from c. 7 to 10 mm thick. Fabric FS is represented by vessel no 8. This could be of LBA or LBA/EIA date. The fabric's on site associations, however, are primarily LBA/EIA.

Medium flint, F1

Rare to sparse (2 to 5%) medium sand to (very rare) small granule sized burnt flint, moderate (15%) fine to medium quartz sand, rare (1%) carbonaceous material, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. No chronologically diagnostic forms occurred in this fabric, but, although it is present in small quantities in two probable MBA contexts, its principal chronological associations are LBA/EIA.

Medium flint, F2

Sparse to moderate (5 to 10%) medium to very coarse sand sized burnt flint, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. A minority of sherds (not quantified separately) also include varying quantities of glauconite (e.g. pot no 31). Body sherds from c. 6 to 12 mm thick. Key forms in fabric F2 include vessel nos 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 31, 37 and 42. All but vessel nos 2, 37 and 42 belong to the early first millennium BC. The most precisely dated of these are LBA/EIA. Vessel no 2 is MIA. Vessel no 37

comes from a probable MBA context but it is thought to have been intruded. Vessel no 42 could be LBA/EIA but a slightly later date is preferred for it.

Medium flint, F3

Moderate (10 to 15%) medium sand sized to very coarse sand sized burnt flint, and very rare (<1%) medium granule sized burnt flint. Some sherds incorporate unquantifiable shell and/or carbonaceous material. Body sherds from c. 9 to 11 mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic feature sherds occurred in this fabric, but, although absent from MBA features, it was stratified below the principal LBA/EIA deposit. It may be LBA/EIA or LBA.

Coarse wares

Medium to coarse flint, CF1

Moderate (10%) coarse sand sized to small granule sized burnt flint. Body sherds from c. 8 to 12 mm thick. The only chronologically diagnostic feature sherd to occur in this fabric is the heavily gritted base (no 23). It is dated to the early first millennium BC.

Medium to coarse flint with glauconite, CFGlau

Sparse (3-5%) coarse sand to small granule sized burnt flint, moderate (10 to 15%) medium glauconite, and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds at c. 10 mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric, but its on site chronological associations are wholly LBA/EIA. Identical fabrics occur in the LBA/EIA assemblage from Chanctonbury Ring.

3. Later Iron Age fabrics

Three intermediate fabrics most likely belong to the MIA.

Greensand, GS

Common (20%) medium to coarse sand sized greensand. Fabric GS is represented by a single body sherd from undated pit 1225. This sherd was 10 mm thick and weighed 20 grams. It was associated with single sherds in fabrics C and G. Calcitic rock-tempered fabrics, some incorporating greensand, are frequent components both of Surrey and East Sussex MIA assemblages. A West Sussex parallel comes from Carne's Seat.²

'Chalk', C

Moderate to common (15 to 20%) medium to coarse sand sized 'chalk', and rare (not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules or grog. Body sherds from c. 7 to 9 mm thick. Possibly a decalcified variant of GS above, parallels of examples for which are known in Surrey (e.g. from Hascombe) (see note 1). Fabric C is represented by vessel nos 49 and 50.

² Seager Thomas 2005; 2010.

Grog, G

Sparse (7%) medium to coarse sand sized grog (including some of a vivid red colour). Fabric G is represented by a single body sherd from undated pit 1225. This sherd was 5 mm thick and weighed 1.5 grams. It was associated with single sherds in fabrics C and GS.

4. Clay Sources, Pottery Fabrics and Early First Millennium BC Site Resource Procurement Strategies

The fabrics with glauconite inclusions are thought to be non-local. Most likely the clays comprising them come from north of the Downs. Similar fabrics have been identified in pottery assemblages from at least twelve Sussex early first millennium BC sites (Roundstone Lane is the western-most), and, together, are taken as an indicator of craft specialization during the period (Hamilton 1997a, 42; 2002a, 46). A non-local source may also be suggested for fabric S. Similar shelly fabrics have been quantified from four West Sussex early first millennium BC sites, Mile Oak, Roundstone Lane, Thundersbarrow Hill and Steyning ([Tables 1 and 2](#); Hamilton 2002a, table 2.9, 1993 and 1988, 46). In each case they comprised a minority of the whole. By contrast, at their principal East Sussex findspot, Bishopstone, they comprised the majority (Hamilton 1977, table 5). The implication is that they too are a product of craft specialization, and possibly have their origins in East Sussex.³ The natural inclusions present in the remaining Roundstone Lane fabrics are consistent with what would be expected of local clays. Possible sources occur in the Clay-with-flints, local Tertiary strata and in the fossil channels of the coastal plain, but none of these have been studied in sufficient detail to provide a match. However, differences between the amount, grade and presence of natural inclusions, such as quartz sand, present in fabrics belonging to the MBA and the early first millennium BC fabric groups show the principal local source of potting clay to have changed between these two periods.

5. Typological Context of the Middle Bronze Age Pottery Assemblage

5.1 Deverel-Rimbury Pottery

The MBA pottery from Roundstone Lane includes a wide range of forms belonging to the DR pottery tradition. Seven ‘everyday’ and ‘heavy duty’ forms within it are linked by Ellison with food preparation (Ellison types 1 to 4 & 6) and storage (Ellison types 8 to 10) (Ellison 1978, 32; 1980, 38). *Forms* belonging to a ‘fine ware’ group, linked by her with food consumption, are absent but may be represented by fabric FF4 (cf. Angmering Bypass, fabric FF: [Appendix 6](#)). Forms with Sussex parallels include a large ‘bucket urn’ with an applied, finger-tip impressed cordon (no 21), a sherd with a simple, finger-

³ It is now my view that bulk of the shelly wares in that assemblage are later than those comprising the Roundstone Lane group. A closer analogy would be Castle Hill Newhaven, but the pottery from this site is mixed and it is impossible to quantify its fabrics by date. In typologically earlier East Sussex post Deverel-Rimbury assemblages, such as that from Shinewater Park, shell-tempering also comprised a minority of the whole. I suspect therefore we should be looking for another explanation for these fabrics — MST 2014.

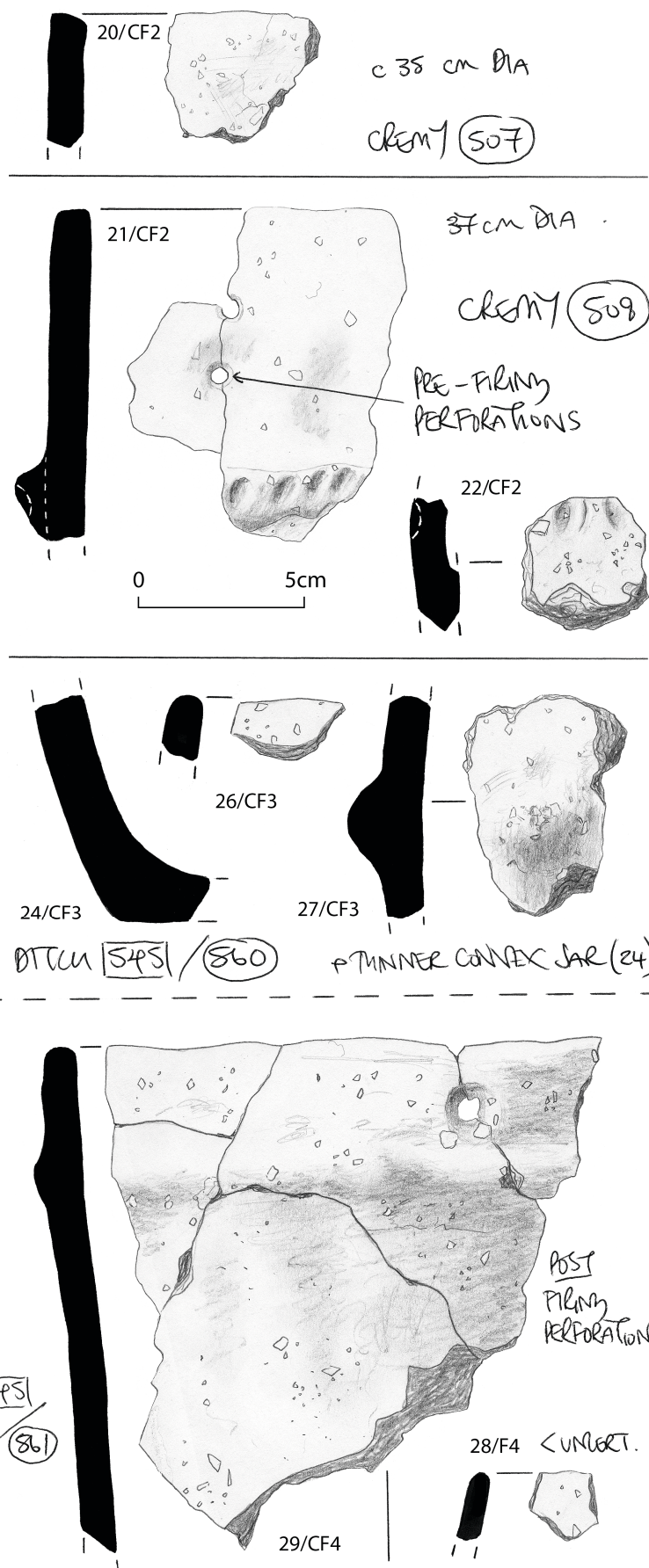


Figure 1. Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Roundstone Lane

tip impressed cordon, also probably belonging to a 'bucket urn' (no 22) (Ellison types 9 and 10), an ovoid bossed jar (nos 26 and 27) (Ellison type 2), a flared, convex-sided base (no 25), a small 'bucket urn' with an undecorated, raised or applied cordon (possibly incorporating a boss) (29), two thin rim sherds from a bag-shaped or ovoid bossed jar (nos 24 and 28) (all Fig. 1) (Ellison types 1 and 2), a flat-topped, in-turned rim and a flared base (no 44) (possibly Ellison type 6) (Fig. 4), and a straight-side vessel with a lightly finger-tip impressed cordon and a slightly in-turned, finger-tip impressed rim (no 38) (Fig. 2). No single Sussex assemblage incorporates all of these forms. Published feature groups containing two or more, however, come from at least three sites: the Angmering Bypass (ditch 4500) (Appendix 6), Coldean Lane, Brighton (Varley Halls, hut terrace 1) (Hamilton 1997, fig. 14), and Mile Oak (hut terraces 1 and 3) (Hamilton 2002, figs 2.29-31). Important individual parallels occur in assemblages from Amberley Mount (Ratcliffe-Densham, H B A & M M, 1966, fig. 6), New Barn Down (Curwen 1934, fig. 19), Plumpton Plain (Hawkes 1935, fig. 2), Selsey (Musson 1954, figs 6 and 7; Kenny 1989, 5) and other Sussex sites.

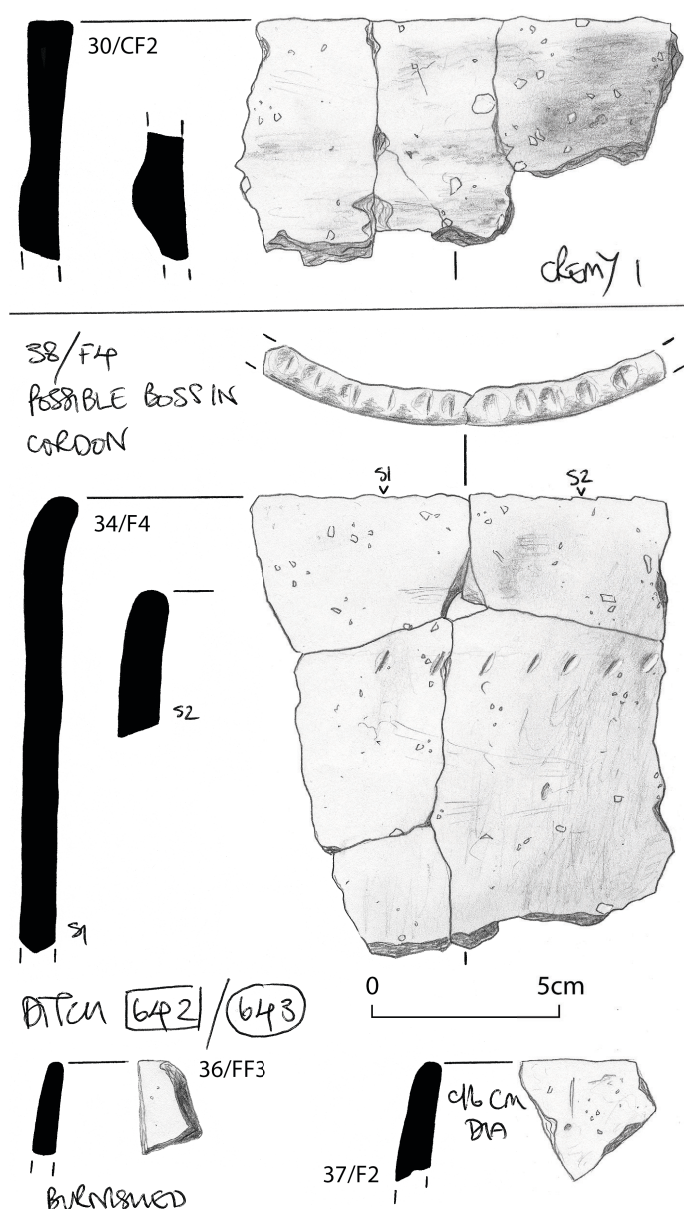


Figure 2. Deverel-Rimbury and post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Roundstone Lane (respectively, nos 30 & 38 and 36 & 37)

5.2 Unusual Middle Bronze Age Traits

Three forms which have not hitherto been recognized in Sussex DR assemblage are also present in the MBA assemblage.

Urns

Two new urn forms are in indisputably MBA fabrics (*CF2* and *CF4*) and can confidently be dated to this period. One of these, vessel no 30, is straight-sided and bossed with a notched cordon ([Fig. 2](#)). Though utterly unlike any of Ellison's Sussex types, its bosses and small size place it in her 'everyday' group. A notched cordon occurs in the 'doubtful group' of pottery from MBA New Barn Down (Curwen 1934, 21). Vessel no 30 was directly associated with fabric FF4. The other, vessel no 46, is bi-partite with a vertically finger-tip impressed line between its rim and shoulder angle ([Fig. 3](#)). It is a variant of Ellison's types 6 or 8.

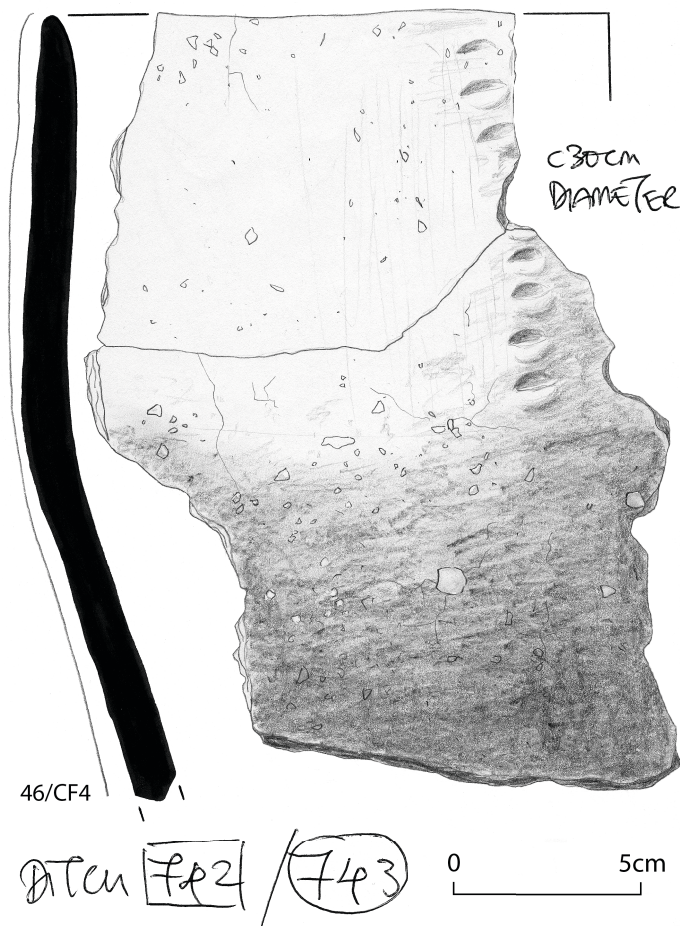


Figure 3. Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Roundstone Lane

Pre-firing perforations

Also unusual are perforations between the rim and cordon of vessel no 21 ([Fig. 1](#)). Post-firing perforations are common in DR assemblages from Sussex (e.g. no 29) and are generally interpreted as repair-holes (Ellison 1972, 111; Hamilton 2002a, 48). The perforations in vessel no 21, however, were made *prior* to firing. It is thought that they relate either to suspension, or, in view

of the probable size and weight of vessel no 21, a means by which a cover may have been attached. Pre-firing perforations below the rims of pots are a common feature of Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Kent and the Thames Valley.

5.3 The Date of Sussex Deverel-Rimbury Pottery

The referencing of MBA features by probable later Bronze Age features and deposits, and the close association of MBA and LBA-type wares at Roundstone Lane and on the Angmering Bypass site suggests that parts at least of both assemblages may relate to a late phase of the DR tradition ([Appendix 6](#)). The same has been suggested of the Mile Oak assemblage (Hamilton 2002a, 36, 48) to which that from Roundstone Lane is related typologically. Horizontal grouping of different DR forms from MBA cemeteries at Kimpton in Hampshire (Dacre & Ellison 1981, 190) and Ardleigh Rings in Essex (Couchman 1975) suggest additionally that bosses, a recurrent Sussex DR trait, belong to a late phase of DR activity. This is broadly supported by radiocarbon dates associated with Sussex DR pottery which focus on a period between c. 1500 and 1150 Cal BC but include some atypically late dates (notably that from Itford Hill) (Hamilton 2002b, 180, 7.30). Indications of a date towards the end of the MBA for some of the Roundstone Lane DR pottery include fabric FF4, which, although not exactly paralleled in the later Angmering assemblages, is unusually fine for a Sussex MBA fabric, the unparalleled vessel no 30 below which it was found, and the co-occurrence in ditch 642 of both MBA and later pottery. When the MBA occupation commenced remains open.

5.4 Regional Importance of the Angmering Middle Bronze Age Assemblage

The wide range of feature associations of the two Angmering MBA pottery assemblages suggest that a variety of activities occurred in the neighbourhood — in addition to those indicated by the urned cremations. What these activities were must be inferred from pottery morphology alone since pottery from neither assemblage was ‘structured’, nor, except for the cinerary urns, present in obvious primary contexts (e.g. hut platforms),⁴ but, if Ellison’s interpretation of her ‘everyday’ and ‘heavy duty’ wares is correct, we can assume that they include some of a domestic nature. Both the number and the variety of vessel forms indicate that this was similar to that which occurred on Downland sites during the period (see parallels cited above) and thus close an interpretative gap between the two regions resulting from the absence of evidence for settlement on the Coastal Plain. Both sites also yielded feature assemblages comprising several different vessel forms (e.g. Roundstone Lane, ditch 545, and Angmering Bypass, ditch 4673) ([Fig. 1](#); [Appendix 6](#)). These are important because they improve the internal phasing of DR pottery. For example, ditch 545 shows bag-shaped jars, ovoid bossed-jars and jars with raised, undecorated cordons to have been coeval. Finally, the forms present and absent from the two assemblages place Angmering in a regional context. Two of Ellison’s vessel types, both of which she considers peculiarly Sussex types (5 and 7) (Ellison 1978, 34), were absent from Angmering and do not occur in other Coastal Plain assemblages. It is possible, therefore, that the Coastal Plain fell outside a definable style zone. On the other hand, type 7 was present at Highdown Hill nearby (Wilson 1940, 1), and both assemblages have extra-regional parallels including at least one previously thought not to

⁴ There were two houses on the Bypass site but although pottery was recovered from features associated with these, little was recovered from the houses themselves.

have been shared with West Sussex (Ellison type 9) (Ellison 1980, 12). Overall this confirms the broad regional credentials of West Sussex DR traditions.

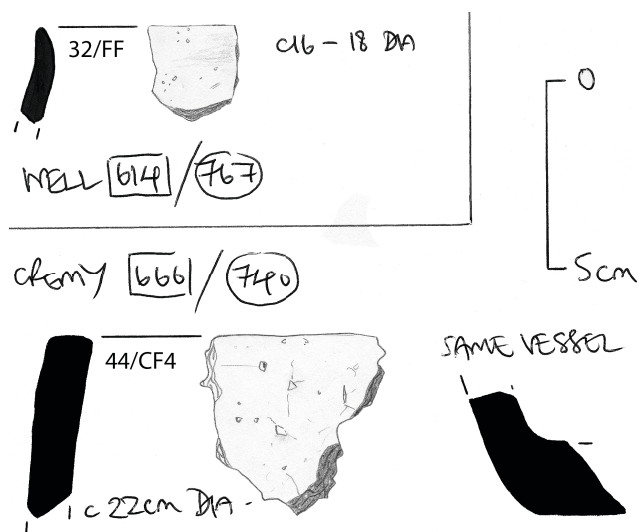


Figure 4. Deverel-Rimbury (no 44) and undated pottery (no 32) from Roundstone Lane

6. Typological Context of the Early First Millennium BC pottery

6.1 Post Deverel-Rimbury Typology

Most of the LBA/EIA pottery from Roundstone Lane belongs to a late, 'decorated' phase of the PDR pottery tradition. It comprises a wide but incomplete range of the known forms associated with this tradition, including, in terms of the number of individual vessels represented, a high proportion of fine wares associated with the consumption of food (Barrett 1980, 303), and rather fewer intermediate wares associated with other forms of domestic activity. Forms with Sussex parallels include the neck of a shouldered jar (no 1) (Fig. 6), a possible tri-partite jar (no 4) (Fig. 5) and two narrow shouldered tri-partite bowls (5 and 11) (Fig. 5), all of which are finewares, and the finger-tip or tool impressed shoulder angles of three shouldered jars (nos 7, 8 and 31) (Figs 5 & 6) and an externally slashed rim of a probable tri-partite shouldered jar (no 18) (Fig. 6). Once again no Sussex assemblage incorporates all of these forms but published feature groups containing two or more come from Slonk Hill (pits 4 and 5) (Morris 1978a, 12) and East Beach, Selsey (Well 112) (Seager Thomas 2001a, 12), and groups of parallels occur in 'decorated' PDR site assemblages from Chanctonbury Ring (Hamilton 2001) and Highdown Hill (Wilson 1940, figs 4-6). Four vessels — a heavily gritted base (no 34), a convex jar (no 37) and two possible hemispherical bowls (nos 36 and 41) (Figs 2 & 7) — could belong to an earlier, plainware phase of the same tradition.

6.2 Unusual Early First Millennium BC Forms

Three forms are new to Sussex. These include a third narrow shouldered tri-partite bowl (no 6), a large jar with an upright, flat-topped and massively internally expanded rim (no 9) (both Fig. 5), and two 'rusticated' sherds (nos 10 and 17) (not illustrated). In order to

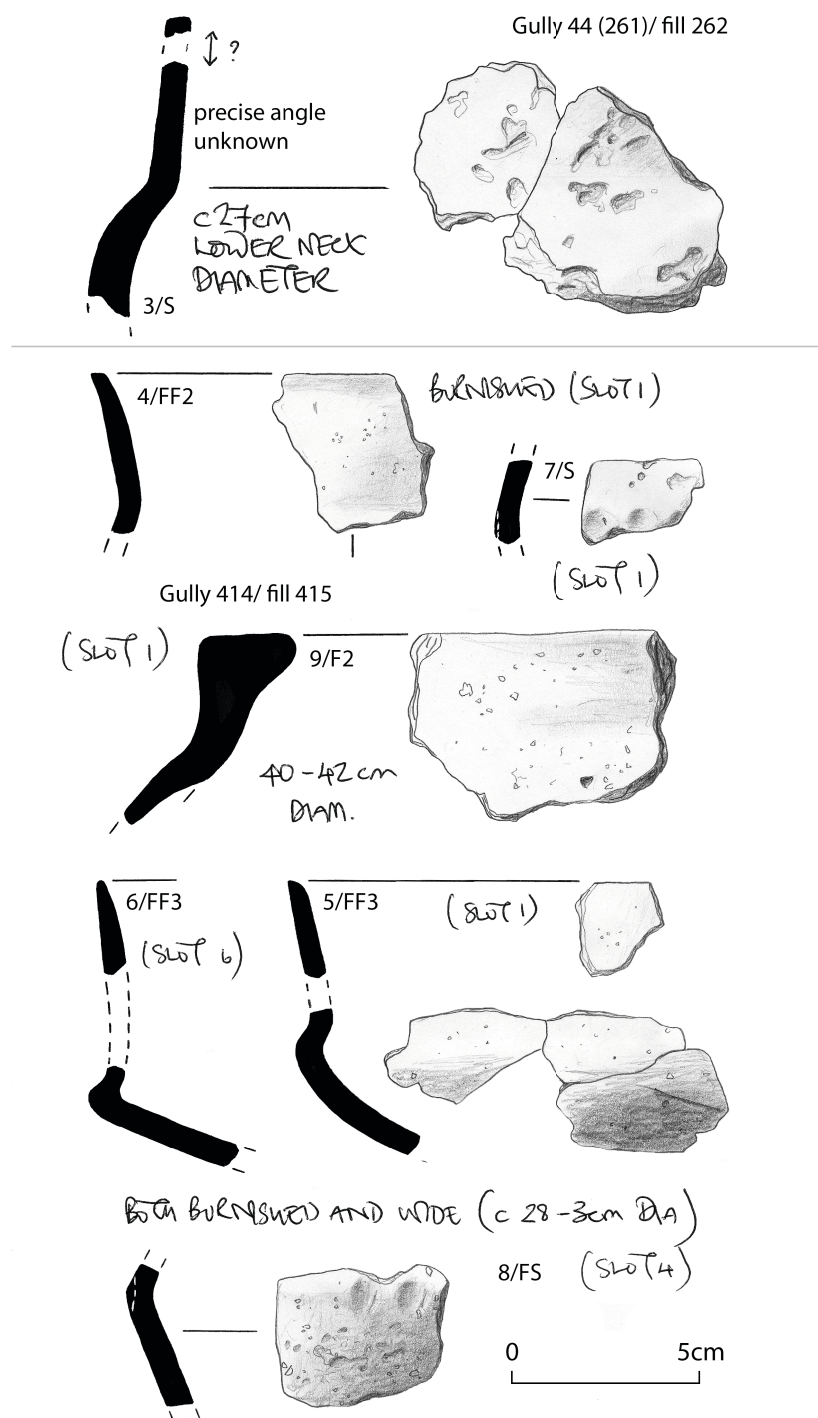


Figure 5. Late Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Roundstone Lane

find parallels for vessel no 6 and the 'rusticated' sherds it is necessary to turn to Kent and the Continent. Sherd 9, although possibly part the same as vessel as the two 'rusticated' sherds, is currently without parallel.

Narrow shouldered tri-partite bowl

The key characteristic of vessel no 6 is its very narrow, acutely angled shoulder. This form is associated with obtusely angled shoulders, similar to those of vessel nos 5 and 11, in assemblages from Dolland's Moor near Folkestone (Macpherson-Grant 1990, 61) and Compiègne 'Le Fond Pernant'

in Oise, France (Malrain et al 1996, 5). Both forms occur separately in assemblages from other French sites including Neuville-sur-Escout in Nord (Hurtrelle *et al.* 1990, 18), Duisans in Pas-de-Calais (*ibid.*, 27) and Conde-sur-Suippe 'Le Deprofundis' in Aisne (La Brieffe & Sidéra 1988, 32).

Applied 'rustication'

This finish consists of roughened clay slurry, usually applied below the shoulder. Prior to the present find it was known only in Kent and on the near Continent. Near contemporary parallels occur in assemblages from, for example, Hawkinge in Kent (Seager Thomas & Hamilton 2001b), Coquelles 'RN1' in the Pas-de-Calais, France (Blancquaert 1998, 5), and Vlaardingen in Holland (Van Heeringen 1987, plate 42). It is conceivable, given the evidence for the movement of other early first millennium BC pottery outlined above, that the present find was imported from one or other of these regions.

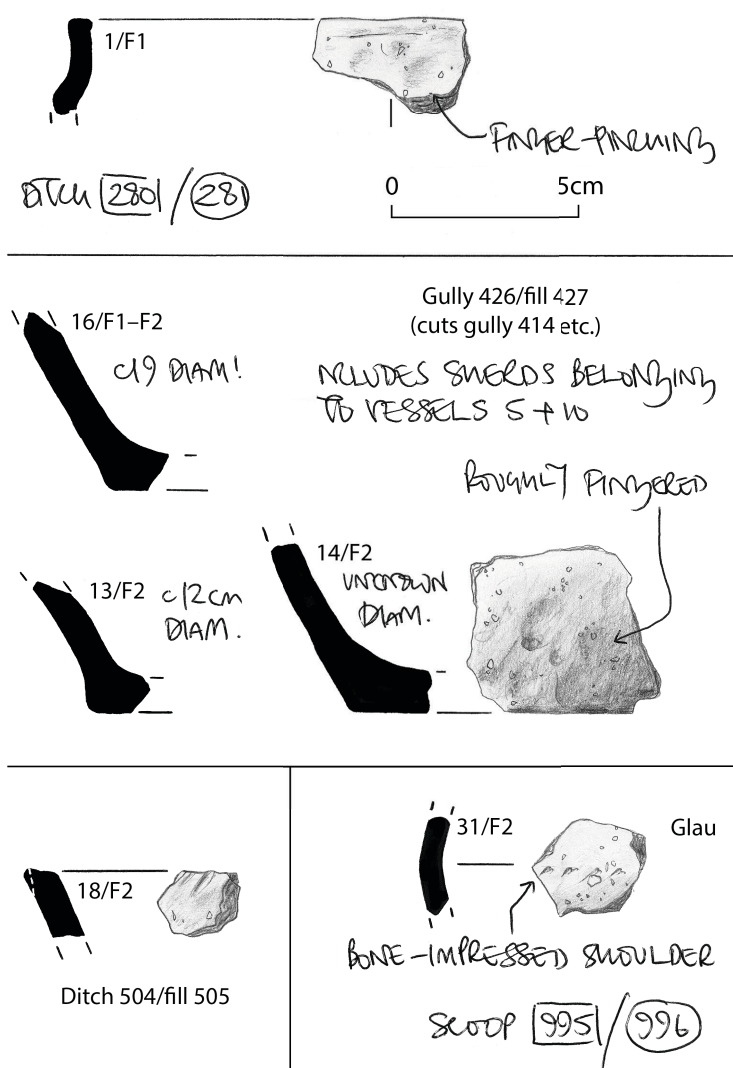


Figure 6. Late Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Roundstone Lane

6.3 The Dating of the Post Deverel-Rimbury Assemblage

At least four hundred years separate the DR and the bulk of PDR pottery from Roundstone Lane, although, as noted above in the sections on fabrics and PDR typology, a handful of sherds may be of intermediate date. Typologically, 'decorated' PDR pottery falls somewhere between plain PDR pottery, dated to the LBA, and a less well-defined group comprising assemblages such as those from Green Street, Eastbourne (Hodson 1962), and Findon Park (Fox & Wolseley 1928) currently dated to the EIA. Radiocarbon dates associated with 'decorated' PDR pottery focus on the seventh century Cal BC (Needham 1996, 137). This is consistent both with continental radiocarbon dates, such as that from Vlaardingien in Holland (Van Heeringen 1989), which show applied 'rustication' to have become common there between the seventh and sixth centuries Cal BC, and Sussex dates on earlier, plain PDR pottery which focus on the ninth century Cal BC. Sussex dates associated with 'decorated' pottery come from Yapton, Chanctonbury Ring and Harting Beacon. The earliest is from Yapton, which yielded no parallels for the present assemblage. It spans the tenth and sixth centuries Cal BC. Much closer typologically is Chanctonbury Ring which has a date spanning the eighth and the second centuries Cal BC. Latest is that from Harting Beacon. It spans the fourth/fifth and the first century Cal BC (Hamilton 1993; Hamilton & Manley 2001, 14).

6.4 The Regional Importance of the Early First Millennium BC Assemblage

Roundstone Lane is only the third or fourth site on the Sussex Coastal Plain to have yielded LBA/EIA pottery. Twice as many are known on the West Sussex Downs. The reason for this difference is unknown, but, given the *opposite* distribution of LBA findspots (Seager Thomas 2001a, 14), it seems likely that it reflects the real distribution of settlement during the two periods. The present assemblage provides an insight into that settlement. The form and probable role of the vessels comprising it are similar to those from contemporary Downland sites, many of its feature associations are similar, and it was richly augmented by craft specialization and far-reaching site resource procurement strategies similar to those associated with Downland sites. By contrast the much more extensive LBA settlement of Coastal Plain appears culturally impoverished (eg Climping: Seager Thomas 2001b). This suggests not so much a shift in settlement as a reorganization of resources, which, given their common culture, may be related to the coeval establishment of the first archaeologically visible land boundaries and hillforts on the Downs (Hamilton & Manley 2001, 25, table 1).

7. Later Iron Age and Undated Pottery

Five feature sherds are later or of uncertain date. These include an undiagnostic rim sherd in either fabric FF3 or FF4 (no 32) (Fig. 4), a large pedestal base (no 42), the base of a saucepan pot (no 48), and two sherds in fabric C, one with an 'S' shaped profile and slightly thickened neck (no 49) and one with an out-turned rim/vestigial neck (50) (all Fig. 7).

Out-turned rim

The form and fabric of vessel no 32 can be accommodated in both of the principal traditions comprising the Roundstone Lane assemblage, and, although its associations are primarily MBA (Table 1), its precise date

remains unknown. The feature from which it comes, well 614, has an MBA *terminus post quem* at best.

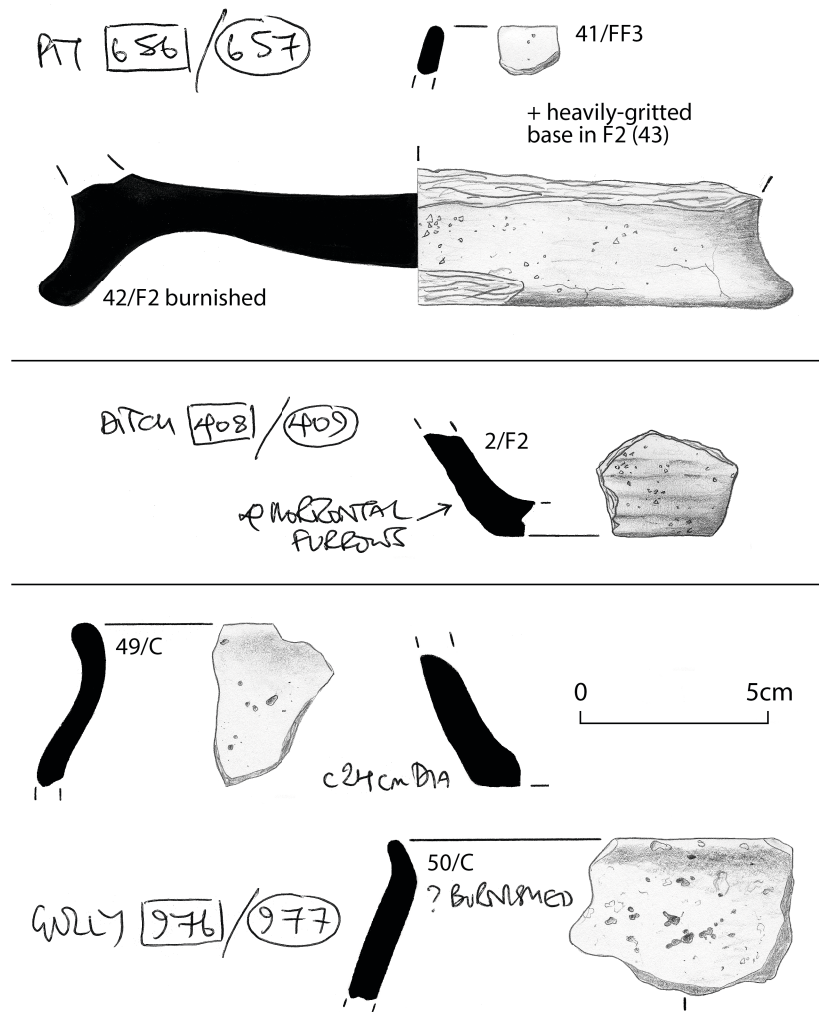


Figure 7. Iron Age pottery from Roundstone Lane

Pedestal base

The closest parallel for the present example comes from Slonk Hill (Morris 1978a, 4). Slonk Hill yielded LBA/EIA, EIA and MIA assemblages. The fabric of the Slonk hill vessel would be consistent with an LBA/EIA date there; in West Sussex, however, pedestal bases, appear to be an Early Iron Age, rather than LBA phenomenon, and this latter is the writer's preferred date for present vessel.

Saucepan pot

Vessel no 48 is widely flared for a saucepan pot and has only two close West Sussex parallels, one from Torberry (Cunliffe 1976, 20) and one from Shopwyke (Seager Thomas & Hamilton 2001a). Sussex saucepan pottery is thought to date from the third century BC (Cunliffe 1991, 567). Both parallels, however, were associated with LIA forms and may belong to slightly later, pre-Belgic LIA group.

'S' shaped profile

The key characteristic of vessel no 49 is the combination of its 'S' profile and thickened neck. 'S' shaped profiles occur throughout the early first millennium BC (and later), but, outside the region, this combination is primarily associated with MIA and pre-Belgic LIA forms (eg Bigbury, Kent: Thompson 1983, 11). Possible Sussex examples occur in the LIA assemblage from North Bersted (Morris 1978b, figs 19-21).

Out-turned rim

Vessel no 50 has two Sussex parallels. One is from the same Torberry assemblage as the saucepan pot parallel referred to above (Cunliffe 1976, 20). The closest is from Bishopstone (Hamilton 1977, 48). The feature from which this latter came, pit 790, is not closely dated but is thought to be intermediate between the site's LBA and LIA occupations (Hamilton pers comm). A Kent parallel for another vessel from this feature occurs in the pre-Belgic LIA assemblage from Hawkinge (Hamilton & Seager Thomas 2002b).

8. Overall conclusion

Interpretatively, Roundstone Lane is tied to the adjacent Bypass site. The importance of the prehistoric pottery assemblages from both lies in, firstly, their position on the Sussex Coastal Plain, secondly, the co-occurrence on them of pottery belonging to the MBA and the early first millennium BC, thirdly, the range of pottery forms present, and, fourthly, the presence of these in a variety of different feature types. Angmering is one of only a handful of locations to fulfil these criteria, and thus provides a rare opportunity to examine a range of issues relating to contemporary settlement similar to that possible in Sussex's better known Downland region. Of primary interest is the precise dating of activity in the area, achieved through a detailed fabric analysis of the two assemblages, and its context within the Sussex MBA and first millennium BC as a whole. This shows how settlement at Angmering, although probably continuous, shifted through the period. The same thing occurred both on Downland sites and on sites outside the region and suggests that all belong to a common settlement tradition. Much the same is suggested by the pottery forms present, and, with the possible exception of the well (a feature category which is as much geographically as culturally determined), their feature associations. For the whole period these are similar to those from Downland sites. This puts paid to any assumptions regarding MBA and early first millennium BC settlement predicated on a perceived difference between the two areas. Work on the possible later first millennium BC pottery from the site is on-going.

(April 2002)

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Appendix 1. Quantification of pottery (sherd numbers) from MBA and LBA/EIA dated contexts at Roundstone Lane, Angmering

FW = fine ware; IW = intermediate ware; CW = coarse ware

Cut	Fill	MBA Fabrics					Early first millennium BC fabrics								Total	Date	
		FW	CW				FW			IW				CW			
		FF4	F4	CF2	CF3	CF4	FF 2	FF3	FF G	S	FS	F1	F2	CF1			CF G
		Number of sherds															
Area A																	
261	262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	LBA/EIA
272	273	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	547	
414	415	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	553	
	431	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	440	
	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	0	0	442	
426	427	0	0	0	0	0	19	78	0	0	63	0	108	0	12	1133	
Total																471	
Area B																	
507		0	0	>50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	>50	MBA
508		0	0	>100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	>100	
545	560	0	16	0	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1137	
	561	0	50	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	624	
CR 1		5	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	
CR 2		0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	
CR 3		0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?1	0	0	0	
CR 4		0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	
504	549	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1057	LBA/EIA
Total																342	
Area D																	
103	104	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	212	MBA
614	615†	24	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	
626	627	1	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1382	
642	643	0	0	10	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1299	
648	649*	0	0	15	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	
648	774	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1442	
666	667	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1343	
	740	0	0	0	0	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	835	
728	729	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1458	
742	743	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1492	
752	531	0	11	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1307	
656	657	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	1339	LBA/ EIA
678	679	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1362	
722	723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1446	
748	749	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	1507	
Total																389	
Evaluation trenches outside main excavation																	
226	227	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	459	MBA
8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	33	LBA/EIA
Total																21	

Appendix 2. Quantification of pottery (weight) from MBA and LBA/EIA dated contexts at Roundstone Lane, Angmering
Key as table 1

Cut	Fill	MBA Fabrics					Early first millennium BC fabrics									Total
		FW	IW	CW			FW			IW				CW		
		FF 4	F4	CF2	CF3	CF4	FF 2	FF3	FF G	S	FS	F1	F2	CF1	CF G	
		Weight of sherds in grams														
Area A																
261	262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	576
272	273	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	582
414	415	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	919
	431	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	105
	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	13	0	0	465
426	427	0	0	0	0	0	107	386	0	0	729	0	1094	0	145	3314
Total																4267
Area B																
507		0	0	376	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	376
508		0	0	2500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2500
545	560	0	37	0	123	81	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	1365
	561	0	89	0	0	407	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1057
CR 1		6	0	394	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400
CR 2		0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
CR 3		0	0	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
CR 4		0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
504	549	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	15	0	1095
Total																4266
Area D																
103	104	0	4	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	241
614	615	11	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
626	627	1	1814	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3068
642	643	0	0	263	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	1571
648	649	0	0	33	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1365
648	774	0	0	406	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1828
666	667	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1395
	740	0	0	0	0	1472	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2212
728	729	0	0	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1530
742	743	0	0	0	0	596	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2081
752	531	0	40	0	0	175	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1500
656	657	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	417	0	0	1735
678	679	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	0	0	1453
722	723	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	1508
748	749	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	70	0	0	113
Total																5809
Evaluation trenches outside main excavation																
226	227	0	9	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	496
8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	63
																88

Appendix 3. Quantification of MBA and early first millennium BC pottery from undated, Roman and/or later contexts

TPQ	Fills	Fabric date			Total	Fabric date			Total
		MBA	LBA/EI A	Un- dated		MBA	LBA/EI A	Un- dated	
		Sherd numbers				Weight in grams			
Area A									
Roman or later	281 and 409	0	11	2	13	0	41	16	83
BA	283 and 421	12	2	0	14	21	4	0	53
		Total			27	Total			136
Area B									
Roman or later	514, 546, 548, 556 and 557	4	5	4	13	21	26	17	90
BA	CRs E, I, J and K, 301, 505, 506, 516, 532 and 542	22	11	24	57	42	21	64	241
		Total			70	Total			331
Area C									
Roman or later	166, 175, 203, 847, 859, 905, 909, 913, 933, 949, 950, 952, 956, 963, 980, 985, 1006, 1012, 1024, 1041, 1044, 1092, 1128, 1132, 1134 and 1286	3	35	21	59	23	143	159	443
BA	829, 839, 851, 863, 917, 942, 964, 996, 1108, 1154, 1194, 1208, 1214, 1242, 1254 and 1257	13	19	4	36	8	79	10	169
		Total			95	Total			612
Area D									
Roman or later	609, 613, 623, 673 and 701	6	9	1	16	7	17	5	61
BA	90, 116, 607, 619, 625, 635, 639, 645, 647, 681, 708, 715, 745, 747, 761, 768, 767 and 771	21	18	6	45	85	56	10	241
		Total			61	Total			302
Evaluation trenches outside main excavation									
Roman or later	None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BA	228, 140 and 142	3	0	2	5	7	0	6	23
		Total			5	Total			23

Appendix 4: Catalogue of MBA and LBA/EIA sherds

Area A	interior and exterior surfaces. Grey brown to dark grey core and surfaces.
Ditch 280, fill 281	
1. Upper shoulder, short, upright neck, and flat squared to slightly expanded rim of shouldered jar. <i>Fabric F2</i> . Finger pinched neck. Dark grey core and interior surface, and orange exterior surface.	7. Finger-tip impressed shoulder. <i>Fabric S</i> . Orange (burnt) core and surfaces.
2. Finger-tip impressed shoulder. <i>Fabric F2</i> . Dark grey core and interior surface, and Dark grey to red brown exterior surface.	8. Convex lower body, and angular, finger-tip impressed shoulder of shouldered jar. <i>Fabric FS</i> . Dark grey core, and brown grey surfaces.
Gully 414 (261), fill 262	9. Upper shoulder, upright neck and flat, massively internally expanded rim of very large, probable shouldered jar. <i>Fabric F2</i> . Orange core and surfaces.
3. Round shoulder, ?upright neck and flat, squared rim of shouldered jar. <i>Fabric S</i> . Dark grey core and, orange surfaces.	10. Body sherd. <i>Fabric F2</i> . Applied 'rustication' (clay slurry) on exterior surface. Orange core and surfaces. ?Same vessel as vessel nos 9 and 17.
Gully 414, fill 415	Gully 426, fill 427
4. Flared neck and flat, squared rim of tri-partite or round shouldered bowl or small jar. <i>Fabric FF2</i> . Burnished interior and exterior surfaces. Dark grey surfaces and core.	11. Convex lower body, rounded, shoulder angle, short upper shoulder, and internally rounded rim of tri-partite bowl. <i>Fabric FF3</i> . Burnished interior and exterior surfaces. Dark grey core and interior surface, and orange to grey buff exterior surface.
5. Convex lower body, rounded, obtusely angled shoulder angle, short upper shoulder, upright or slightly flared neck and internally rounded rim of tri-partite bowl. <i>Fabric FF3</i> . Burnished interior and exterior surfaces. Dark grey core and interior surface, and orange to grey buff exterior surface. Same as vessel as vessel no 12.	12. Convex lower body, rounded, obtusely angled shoulder angle, short upper shoulder, upright or slightly flared neck and internally rounded rim of tri-partite bowl. <i>Fabric FF3</i> . Burnished interior and exterior surfaces. Orange to grey buff core and exterior surface, and dark grey interior surface. Same as vessel no 5.
6. Slightly convex lower body, rounded, acutely angled shoulder angle, short upper shoulder, upright or slightly flared neck and rounded rim of tri-partite bowl. <i>Fabric FF3</i> . Burnished	13. Flat, slightly expanded base, and flared, concave to straight sided lower body. <i>Fabric F2</i> . Orange core and exterior surface, and dark grey interior surface.

14. Flat base, and flared, very slightly convex sided lower body. *Fabric F2*. Roughly fingered exterior. Dark grey core and interior surface, and dark grey to orange exterior surface.

15. Flat, slightly expanded base, and flared, concave sided lower body. *Fabric F2*. Brown core and exterior surface, and dark grey brown interior surface. ?Same vessel as vessel no 16.

16. Flat, slightly expanded base, and flared, concave to straight sided lower body. *Fabric F2*. Finger smeared exterior surface. Brown core, and orange surfaces. ?Same vessel as vessel no 15.

17. Body sherd. *Fabric F2*. Applied 'rustication' (clay slurry) on exterior surface. Orange core and surfaces. ?Same vessel as vessel nos 9 and 10.

Area B

Ditch 504, fill 505

18. Flared neck and flat-topped, externally finger-tipped rim of tri-partite shouldered jar. *Fabric F2*. Dark grey core and exterior surface, and buff interior surface.

Ditch 504, fill 506

19. Heavily gritted base (very small fragment). *Fabric F2*. Dark grey core and surfaces.

Cremation 507

20. Upright upper body and flat, very slightly internally bevelled and expanded rim. *Fabric CF2*. Finger smeared exterior. Dark grey brown

core and interior surface, and dark grey exterior surface.

Cremation 508

21. Upright upper body of bucket urn with applied, finger-tip impressed cordon, and flat, squared rim. Two pre-firing perforations, one above the other, between rim and cordon. *Fabric CF2*. Dark grey brown core and dark grey surfaces.

22. Finger-tip impressed body sherd/cordon. *Fabric CF2*. Dark grey core, dark brown interior surface, and red exterior surface.

Gully 541, fill 542

23. Flat, heavily gritted base and flared lower body. *Fabric CF1*. Dark grey to grey brown core, and dark grey surfaces.

Curvilinear ditch 545, fill 560

24. Rounded rim of thin bodied, possible convex jar. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey core and surfaces.

25. Flat base and convex to straight sided lower body. *Fabric CF3*. Orange core and surfaces.

26. Rounded rim of possible convex jar. *Fabric CF4*. Buff core and surfaces. ?Same vessel as vessel no 27.

27. Body sherd with circular boss. *Fabric CF4*. Dark grey core, red brown to dark brown exterior surface, and buff to dark brown interior surface. ?Same vessel as vessel no 26.

Curvilinear ditch 545, fill 561

28. Rounded rim. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey core and surfaces.

29. Upright upper body of bucket urn with ?applied cordon with boss, and rounded rim. Post-firing perforation immediately above cordon. *Fabric CF4*. Dark grey core, dark brown to orange exterior surface, and buff to dark grey interior surface.

Cremation 1 (no context number)

30. Upright upper body with notched cordon and flat, squared rim. Two possible bosses. *Fabric CF2*. Finger smeared. Dark grey core and surfaces.

Area C

Scoop 995, fill 996

31. Diagonally tool (?bone) impressed, obtuse shoulder angle of shouldered jar. *Fabric F2* (glaucous). Dark grey core and interior surface, and dark grey to buff exterior surface.

Area D

Well 614, fill 767

32. Upper shoulder/body and internally rounded and bevelled out-turned rim/vestigial neck. *Fabric FF3* or *FF4*. Light brown core and orange surfaces.

Oval feature 626, fill 637

33. Body sherds (thin) with applied, finger-tip impressed cordon. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey core, and dark grey to orange surfaces.

34. Body sherds (thin) with applied, finger-tip impressed cordon. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey core and interior

surface, and dark brown exterior surface.

35. Flat, slightly expanded base and flared, slightly convex lower body. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey to grey brown core, dark grey to brown exterior surface, and orange to buff interior surface.

Linear feature 642, fill 643

36. Very slightly convex upper body and flat rim of possible hemispherical bowl. *Fabric FF3*. Burnished. Dark grey core and surfaces.

37. Very slightly convex upper body and rounded rim of convex jar. *Fabric F2*. Finger smeared interior. Dark grey core and interior surface, and dark brown exterior surface.

38. Straight sided upper body of straight sided jar with finger tip impressed cordon and rounded, in-turned rim. *Fabric F4*. Dark grey to brown core, and grey to buff surfaces.

Linear feature 648, fill 649

39. Rounded rim. *Fabric CF2*. Dark grey core and surfaces.

Linear feature 648, fill 649

40. Flat base and slightly flared, straight sided lower body. *Fabric CF4*. Grey to orange core, dark grey to orange exterior surface, and dark grey interior surface.

Pit 656, fill 657

41. Rounded rim of possible hemispherical bowl. *Fabric FF3*. Burnished. Dark grey core and surfaces.

42. Very large pedestal base. *Fabric F2* (fine). Burnished. Dark grey to brown core and surfaces.

43. Heavily gritted base. *Fabric F2*. Light brown core, orange interior surface, and grey exterior (gritted) surface.

Cremation 666, fill 740

44. Flat base and flared, convex to straight sided lower body, and convex to straight sided upper body and flat, squared rim of bucket urn or convex jar. *Fabric CF4*. Dark brown core and dark grey to dark brown surfaces.

Oval feature 722, cut 723

45. Flat base and flared lower body.
Fabric F2. Dark brown core, dark grey

to dark brown exterior surface, and dark grey interior surface.

Linear feature 742, fill 743

46. Obtuse shoulder angle and high upper body/shoulder and rounded rim of very large bi-partite jar. Vertical line of finger-tip impressions between shoulder and rim. *Fabric CF4*. Dark grey to dark brown core, orange to dark grey brown exterior surface, and orange to grey brown interior surface.

Circular feature 752, fill 753

47. Rounded rim. *Fabric F4*. Orange core and surfaces.

Appendix 5: Catalogue of possible pre-Belgic LIA sherds

Area A

Ditch 408, fill 409

48. Flat base and convex to straight sided flared lower body of possible 'saucepan pot' with four horizontal furrows immediately above base. *Fabric F2* (fine). Dark grey core and interior surface, and buff exterior surface.

Area C

Gully 976, fill 977

49. Flat base, flared, slightly thickened neck and rounded rim of jar with 'S' shaped profile. *Fabric B*. Dark grey core and dark grey to brown surfaces.

50. Upper body or shoulder and rounded, out-turned and internally bevelled rim/vestigial neck. *Fabric B*. Dark grey core and orange surfaces.

Appendix 6. Dating and research assessment⁵ of the Bronze Age and Saxon pottery from Angmering Bypass, AT 485

by Mike Seager Thomas & Sue Hamilton

1. Summary

The pottery assemblage from the Angmering Bypass excavations comprises c. 1600 sherds weighing just over 12 kilograms. Amongst it there are significant feature assemblages belonging to three broad chronological groups: firstly, Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500-1200 BC) (*hereafter* MBA), secondly, Late Bronze Age (c. 1100-900 BC) (*hereafter* LBA), and, thirdly, Middle Saxon (prior to 900 AD) (*hereafter* MS) and/or Late Saxon (c. 1000 AD) (*hereafter* LS). Early Bronze Age (1 sherd), Roman, medieval and post medieval material is present in insignificant quantities. Sherds belonging to both of the later Bronze Age groups occur in both areas of the site but the Bronze Age assemblage from area 1 appears to be dominated by material belonging to the LBA (pit 5011 and ditch 5210), whereas the Bronze Age assemblage from area 2 includes significant finds belonging to the MBA (pit 4589 and ditches 4527, 4670 and, probably, 4673) and rather fewer belonging to the LBA (ditch 4539). During the LBA site activity involving pottery deposition shifted north from a primary enclosure in area 2 comprising ditches 4572, 4670 and 4673 into a secondary enclosure comprising ditch 4539. It also moved into area 1 for the first time. The bulk of the Saxon material is from area 1 (pit 5041, gully 5238, and, possibly, ditches 5125 and 5174).

2. Typological Context

2.1 Middle Bronze Age pottery

The MBA pottery from Angmering Bypass comprises primarily types belonging to the Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* DR) pottery tradition. The exact chronology of the Angmering assemblage is uncertain. The types present would be consistent with a MBA occupation of the site, but the co-occurrence of MBA and later types and fabrics in individual features (notably ditch 4673) suggests that they may encompass some transitional MBA/LBA material. Most typical of the DR tradition in Sussex are sherds from two large, straight-sided bucket urns from ditch 4673 (fill 4683), one with an applied, finger-tip impressed cordon (no 1) and one with a simple finger-tip impressed cordon (no 2), a bossed jar from pit 4589 (fill 4588) (no 3), a barrel-shaped jar from ditch 4527 (fill 4685) (no 6), and two large, slightly shouldered

⁵ I am unaware of any final report, either on the pottery or the site; certainly if there was, it was not by me — MST

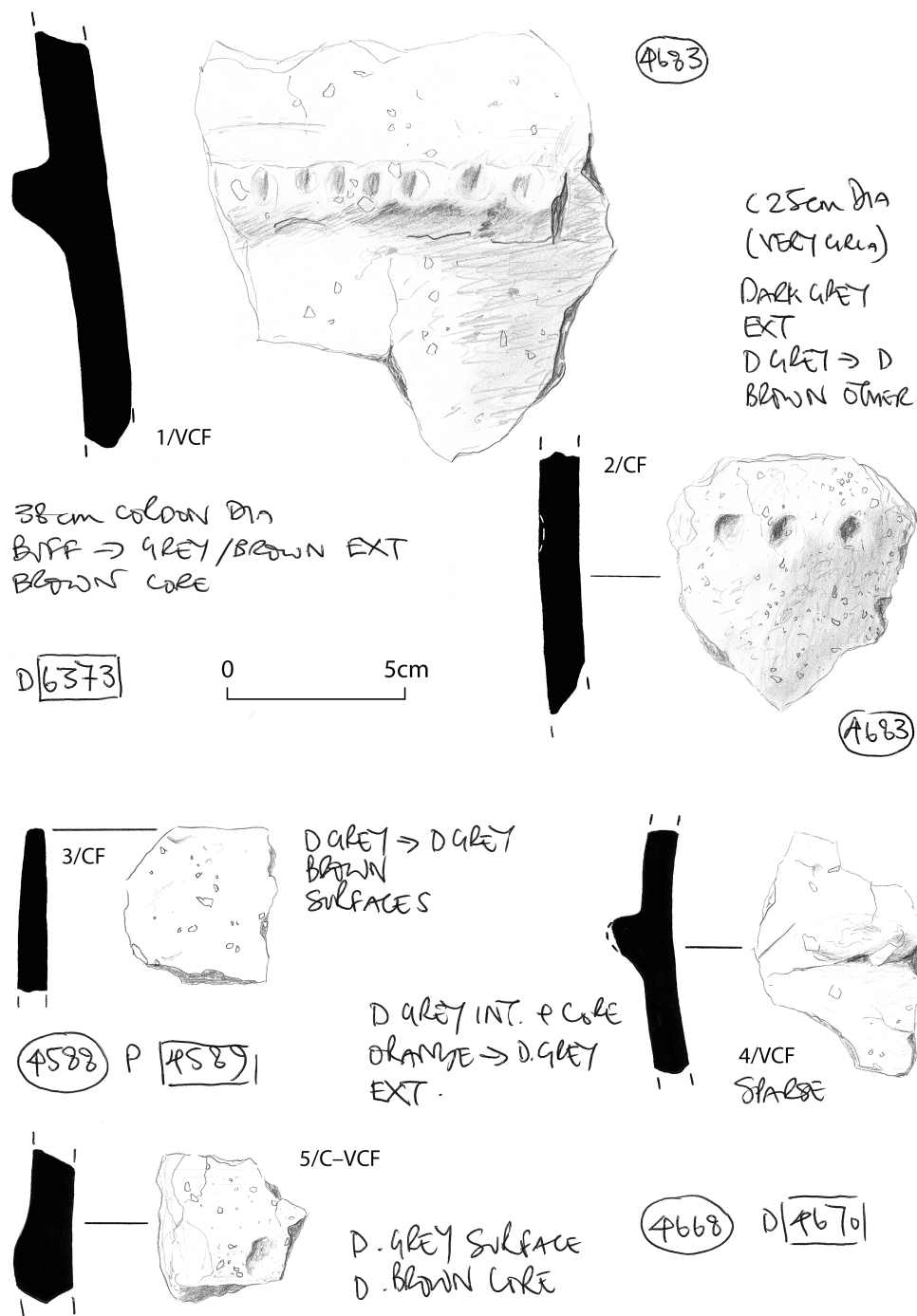


Figure 1. Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Area 2

urns, one with a finger-tip impressed shoulder angle from ditches 4673 (fill 4500) and 4670 (fill 4668) (nos 5 & 8). All of these pots are tempered with coarse burnt flint. There is also a rounded, roughly burnished handle in a fine flint-tempered fabric, most likely from a globular jar (no 9). Both the coarse ware types and fabrics are paralleled in MBA assemblages from the nearby site of Roundstone Lane, Angmering (above), Steyning Round Hill (Burstow 1958), New Barn Down (Curwen 1934) and Varley Halls, Brighton (Hamilton 1997a). DR globular jars come from Mile Oak (Hamilton 2002), Plumpton Plain (Hawkes 1935), Itford Hill (Ellison 1974) and — at least inferentially — Highdown, though these are decorated and the

Angmering example undecorated. Radiocarbon-dated associations for similar pots elsewhere would place them between c. 1500 and 1150 Cal BC (Needham 1996; Hamilton 1997a). Assuming that no later mixing has taken place, however, the aforementioned (LBA) associations suggest a date towards the end of this period. A new addition to the corpus of Sussex DR pottery are coarseware sherds from a convex jar with a tool impressed rim from ditch 4527 (fills 4531) (no 7).

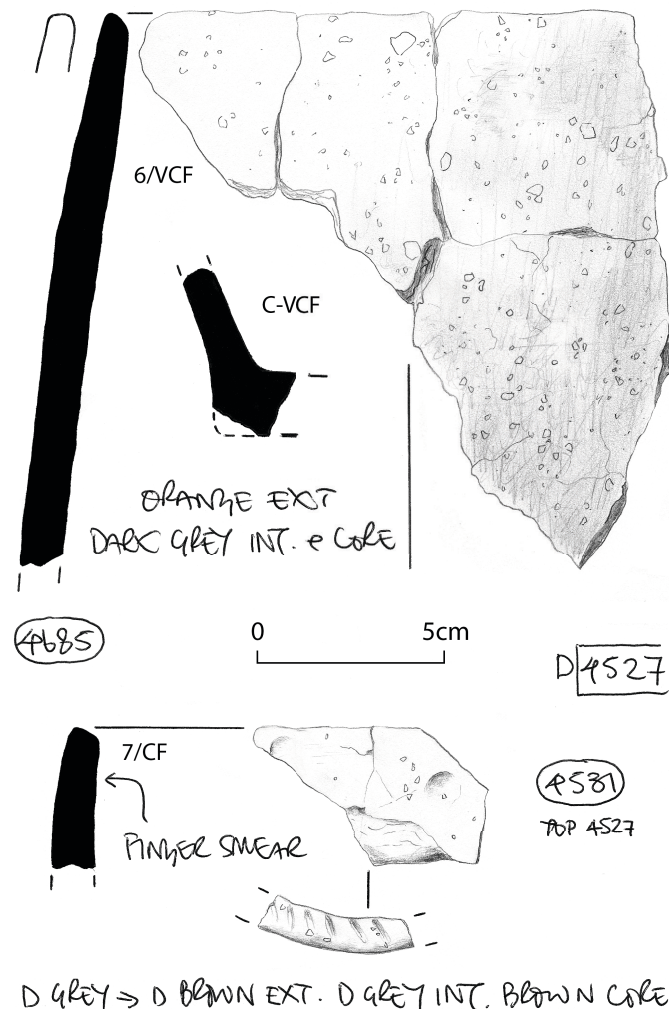


Figure 2. Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Area 2

2.2 Late Bronze Age pottery

The LBA material from Angmering belongs to the post Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* PDR) pottery tradition. The range of PDR pot sizes and fabric types is wider than that of site's DR pottery but comprises a small selection only of the known PDR repertoire. Most typical of Sussex PDR pottery traditions are the slightly out-turned rim of a bi-partite bowl from ditch 5210 (fill 5208) (no 12), the rim of a ?hemispherical bowl from ditch 4539 (fill 4561) (both

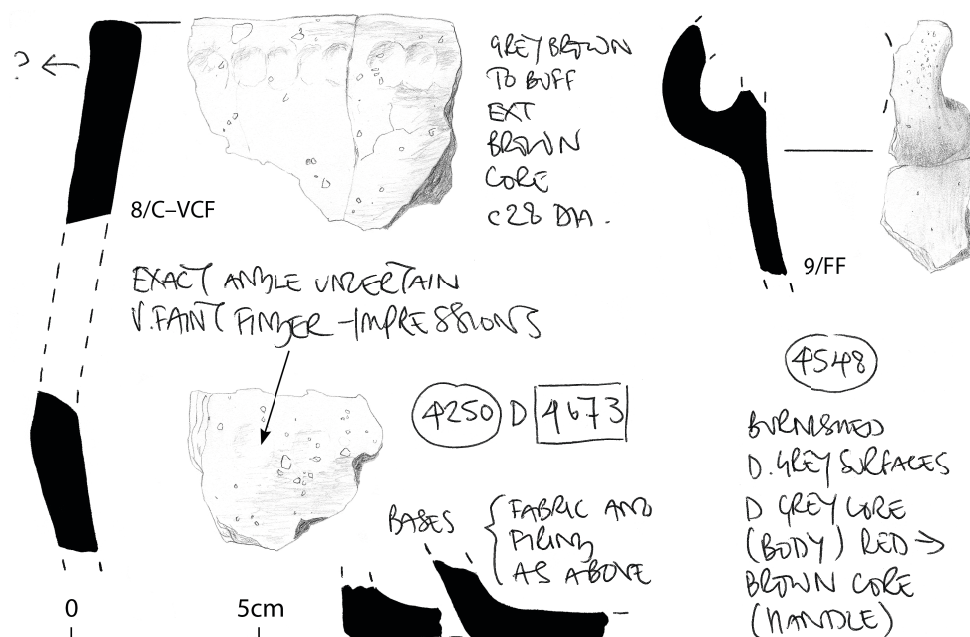


Figure 3. Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Area 2

fine wares), and three body sherds from different coarse and intermediate ware shouldered jars from ditch 5210 (fills 1537-1539) (nos 10 & 11). Ditch 5210 (fill 5138) also yielded a fragment of heavily-gritted base. All of these are tempered with burnt flint. Both pot types and fabrics are broadly paralleled in LBA assemblages from Ford (which yielded a fabric identical to that of the shouldered jar from fill 5139) (Hamilton 2004), Yapton (Hamilton 1987; 1993), Selsey (Seager Thomas 2001) and Knapp Farm, Bosham (Hamilton 1997b), all, like Angmering itself, situated on the Coastal Plain.

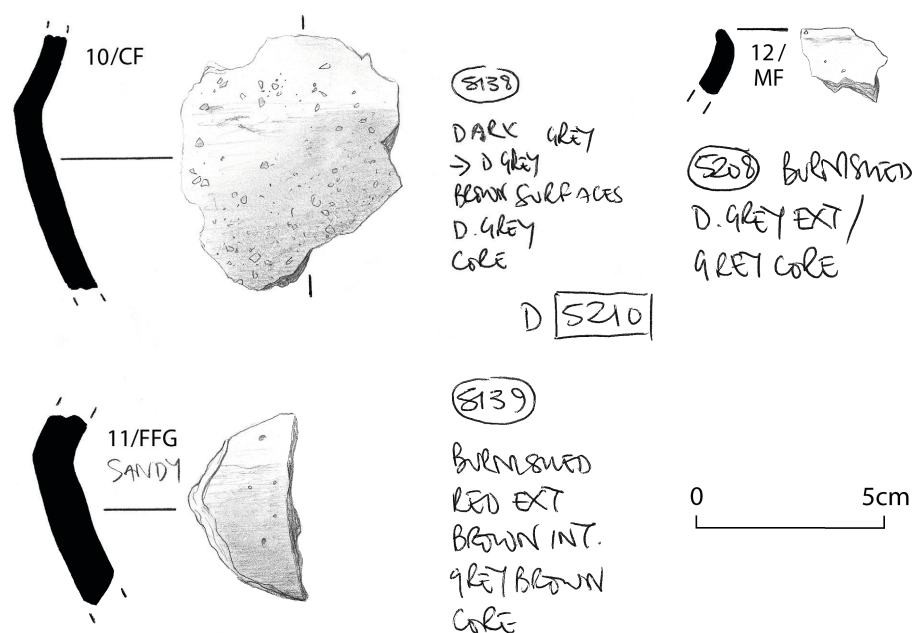


Figure 4. Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery from Area 1

2.3 Roman pottery

There are no feature sherds in Roman fabrics and it is impossible to place the Roman occupation of the site precisely.

2.4 Later Saxon pottery

The dating of later Saxon pottery in Sussex is imprecise. The Angmering assemblage is distinguished primarily by three distinct fabrics associated with later Saxon settlement elsewhere in the county. These incorporate crushed, unburnt flint, chalk, and coarse coloured quartz sand. A few sherds incorporating finer quartz sand are likely to be of the same date but the overlap between them and earlier (Roman) and later (medieval) fabrics is too pronounced for featureless sherds in them to be chronologically useful. In total the site yielded four Saxon feature sherds. Two everted rims from ditch 5125 (fill 5108), one in a flint-tempered and one in a sandy fabric, are roughly paralleled in the MS assemblage from Medmerry Farm, Selsey (White 1934), and may belong to this period. The other two, both widely flared necks, are later. They come from ditches 5174 (fill 5007) (quartz sand-tempered) and 5238 (fill 5323) (flint and ?chalk-tempered) and are paralleled in Sussex LS assemblages from Botolphs (Gardiner 1990), Chichester (Down 1981), Steyning (Gardiner 1993), and Old Erringham (Holden 1980). Fabric dating is much more difficult. On site the flint-tempered and coarse quartz sand-tempered fabrics, which comprise the principal evidence for a Saxon assemblage at Angmering are associated with both MS and LS types (in ditches 5125 and 5238) and elsewhere they span the later Saxon/ Saxo-Norman period (Gardiner 1990). Chalk-tempered fabrics, which in Sussex are restricted to LS assemblages (Gardiner 1990; 1993) occur in ditch 5262 only.

2.5 Later pottery

The site yielded a few later, mostly sand-tempered sherds. These occurred in ones and twos only and were mostly abraded making precise dating impossible. A single green-glazed sherd from fill 4062, however, resembles West Sussex ware dateable to the 14th-century and there are some internally and externally glazed post medieval sherds.

3. Spot dating

The spot dating of the pottery from Angmering is presented below (Table 1). Owing to the small numbers of sherds comprising many context groups exact dating of individual features is problematic. *Terminus post quem* dates are based upon the assessment of individual context assemblages and their immediate stratigraphic relationships. Where a range of possible dates is suggested for the most recent find within an assemblage, the earliest possible date for the context is given.

Individually few of these can be relied upon as guides either to the date of the assemblages or the features, which yielded them. Collectively, however, they give a fair indication of the chronology of activity in different areas of the site. Feature dates based on large individual context assemblages or combinations of smaller, related context assemblages are more reliable. Owing to uncertainties regarding the

associations and longevity of some of the fabrics represented (see above) the absolute date range given is sometimes broad. This applies in particular to those attributed to the later Bronze Age (undifferentiated MBA or LBA) and later Saxon (undifferentiated MS or LS) periods. Detailed fabric analysis and fabric contextualization will be required if the exact extent and dating of these are to be resolved. For the present, however, the authors feel — intuitively — that most of the material described below as later BA should be assigned to the earliest occupation of the site (i.e. MBA), and that most of the material described below as later S should be assigned to the LS period.

Table 1. Spot dating of pottery from AT485 (Key: MBA = Middle Bronze Age; later BA = later Bronze Age (undifferentiated Middle Bronze Age and/or Late Bronze Age); LBA = Late Bronze Age; MS = Middle Saxon; LS = Late Saxon; later S (undifferentiated Middle and Late Saxon); E MED = Early Medieval; MED = medieval; P MED = post medieval; MOD = modern).

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context <i>TPQ</i>	Feature date
			Fabric	Qty	Typology		
?ASSESSMENT TRENCHES							
4010			Medieval sandy	1		MED	
4013			MBA coarse flint	1		MBA	
4021			Medieval grog and sand	1		MED	
4022			Post medieval	1		P MED	
4023			later BA intermediate flint	1		MBA	
4030			LBA intermediate flint Modern	2		MOD	
4031			?later Saxon sandy	1		?LS	
4033			later BA fine flint	1		MBA	
4034			LBA-type fine flint ?Later Saxon sandy	2		?LS	
4035			later BA intermediate flint	2		MBA	
4042			Medieval sandy (?West Sussex ware)	1		MED	
4044			later BA intermediate	1		MBA	

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			flint				
4051			Late Saxon or Early medieval shelly ?Later Saxon sandy Medieval sandy Modern	4		MOD	
4053			MBA intermediate flint	4		MBA	
4070			Medieval sandy Modern	3		MOD	
4071			?Medieval intermediate flint Modern	2		MOD	
4072			LBA intermediate flint Undated fine sandy Late Saxon or Early medieval shelly Medieval sandy	13		MED	
4073			LBA intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	8		?LS	
4074			later BA intermediate flint	8		MBA	
4080			Modern	1		MOD	
4081			MBA intermediate flint	10		MBA	
4082			Mid Saxon intermediate flint	5		LS	
4090			Modern	1		MOD	
4100			?Later Saxon sandy	2		?LS	
4102			Mid Saxon intermediate flint	2		LS	
AREA 1							
5003	5011		later BA intermediate flint LBA	55		LBA	LBA

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			intermediate flint later BA fine flint				
5004	5006		LBA-type fine flint Mid Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	3		MS	
5005	5006		Medieval sandy	2		MED	
5007	5006	5174	Late Saxon or Early medieval sandy	1	Flared neck with externally expanded rim	LS	
5016	5014		Later BA intermediate flint	4		MBA	
5018	5017	5125	LBA intermediate flint Later Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	15	?MS Everted rim ?MS Everted rim	?MS	
5019	5017	5125	LBA intermediate flint Later Saxon intermediate flint	15		Later S	
5022	5104		LBA intermediate flint Roman Later Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	28		Later S	
5023	5024		Later Saxon intermediate flint	3		Later S	
5029	5027	5210	LBA intermediate flint	2		LBA	
5031	5030		Later Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	2		Later S	
5032	5030		Later Saxon intermediate flint	2		Later S	

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
5033		5030	LBA intermediate flint (FMF) Later Saxon intermediate flint	4	Base sherd	Later S	
5040	5041		Mid Saxon intermediate flint	9		MS	MS
	5041		LBA fine flint	5		LS (see above)	LS
5043	5042	5125	Mid Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	4		MS	
5061	5058	5210	MBA coarse flint (MCF & VCF)	8		MBA	
5062	5058	5210	MBA intermediate flint (MCF)	6		MBA	
5067	5063	?5210	MBA coarse flint	14		MBA	
5068	5063/5068	?5210	later BA intermediate flint	2		MBA	
5072	5069		Late Saxon intermediate flint	5		LS	
5073	5069		Medieval sandy	2		MED	
5079	5078		LBA intermediate flint	1		LBA	
	5082		LBA intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	2		?LS	
5083	5082		LBA intermediate flint	1		?LS (see above)	
5097	5096		Late Saxon chalk	1		LS	
5100	5098		Late Saxon intermediate flint	1		LS	
5103	5101		Later Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	4		Later S	
5105	5104	5125	LBA intermediate flint	15		Later S	

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			Later Saxon intermediate flint Undated fine sandy				
5109	5110		Medieval sandy	1		MED	
5112	5111		LBA intermediate flint Medieval sandy	7		MED	
	5115		?LBA intermediate flint	1	crumbs	ND	
	5128		later BA intermediate flint	1		MBA	
5133	5132		LBA intermediate flint ?Early medieval sand and flint	3		?E MED	
5137	5131	5210	LBA intermediate flint LBA fine flint	7	Shoulder of PDR shouldered jar	LBA	LBA
5138	5131	5210	later BA coarse flint LBA intermediate flint (MF)	36	Shoulder of PDR shouldered jar Heavily-gritted base	LBA	LBA
5139	5131	5210	LBA intermediate flint LBA fine flint	33	Shoulder of PDR shouldered jar	LBA	LBA
5140	5131	5210	LBA intermediate flint LBA fine flint	4		LBA	LBA
5157	5156		Later Saxon intermediate flint	2		later S	
5167	5166		Medieval sandy	2		MED	
5173	5127		MBA intermediate flint	2		MBA	
5178	5177		LBA intermediate flint Medieval sandy	4		MED	
5188	5190	5238	LBA or Early medieval	3		LS	LS

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			intermediate flint Late Saxon intermediate flint Late Saxon or medieval sandy				
5192	5191	5174	LBA intermediate flint Later Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	3		?LS	?LS
5193	5191	5174	Chaff Mid Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	18		MS	?LS
5195	5191	5174	Late Saxon intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy	3		LS	?LS
5208	5196	5210	MBA coarse flint LBA intermediate flint	2	Rim of PDR bi- partite bowl	LBA	LBA
5209	5196	5210	LBA intermediate flint	14		LBA	LBA
5216	5215		?Later Saxon sandy	2		?LS	
5236	5235		LBA intermediate flint	1		LBA	
5246	5244		LBA intermediate flint ?Later Saxon sandy Medieval grog and sandy	3		MED	
5253	5252		later Saxon intermediate flint	1	Flared rim	LS	
5267	5268		LBA intermediate flint	1		LBA	
5271	5271		LBA intermediate flint	3		Later S	

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			Later Saxon intermediate flint				
5275	5274		LBA intermediate flint	1		LBA	
5295	5294		LBA intermediate flint	2		LBA	
5297	5268		MBA coarse flint later BA intermediate coarse flint	2		MBA	
5301	5366		Later Saxon intermediate flint Medieval sandy	3		MED	
5305			Later Saxon intermediate flint	2		Later S	
5307	5306		Medieval sandy	3		MED	
5308	5306		Later Saxon intermediate flint	3		Later S	
5315	5165		LBA intermediate flint	2		LBA	
5318		5174	LBA intermediate flint Later Saxon intermediate flint	9		Later S	?LS
5322		5262	Late Saxon chalk Mid or Late Saxon or medieval sandy	15		LS	LS
5323		5238	LBA intermediate flint Late Saxon intermediate flint and decalcified ?chalk	4	Very flared neck of large jar	LS	LS
AREA 2							
4500	4520	4673	MBA coarse flint Later BA intermediate flint	270	Rim of DR bucket urn		

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			LBA-type fine flint				
4501	4520	4673	MBA intermediate flint EBA grog	36		MBA	MBA
4503	4520	4673	MBA intermediate flint	2		MBA	MBA
4508	4509		MBA intermediate flint	70		MBA	MBA
4510	4512	4673	Mid Saxon intermediate flint	1		MS	
4515	4514	4513	MBA intermediate flint	3			Post- Roman
4517	4516	4513	MBA intermediate flint Roman (1 sherd only)	32		Roman	Post- Roman
4528	4529	4527	MBA intermediate flint	2		MBA	MBA
4531	4530	4527	MBA intermediate flint	9	DR convex jar with tool- impressed rim	MBA	MBA
4541	4540		Medieval sandy	1		MED	
4542	4540		Medieval sandy Post medieval	2		P MED	
	4548	4673	MBA coarse flint MBA fine flint	41	Base of large jar Handle of probable PDR jar	MBA	MBA
4559	4557		MBA intermediate flint	2		MBA	
4561	4560	4539	LBA intermediate flint	2	Rim of PDR ?hemispherical bowl	LBA	LBA
4562	4560	4539	Later BA intermediate flint	5		LBA (above 4561)	LBA
4576	4574		Medieval sandy	1		MED	
4582	4581		MBA MCF LBA intermediate sandy (??)	5		LBA	
4588	4589		MBA coarse flint MBA	100	DR bossed-jar	MBA	MBA

<i>Fill</i>	Cut	Feature	Dating evidence			Context TPQ	Feature date
			intermediate flint				
4599	4598	4513	Later BA intermediate flint	7		Later BA	Post- Roman
4603	4602		MBA intermediate flint	2		MBA	
4625	4624	4513	LBA intermediate flint Medieval sandy	3		MED	Post- Roman
4637	4636		MBA coarse flint	2		MBA	
4651	4650	4539	LBA intermediate flint	2		LBA	LBA
4660	4661		MBA intermediate flint later BA fine flint	6	Dot-impressed sherd of unknown type	MBA	
	4668	4670	MBA coarse flint	62	Finger-tip impressed shoulder of DR bucket urn	MBA	MBA
4675	4674		MBA coarse flint	1		MBA	MBA
4679	4680		MBA intermediate flint Grog?	2		MBA	
4683		4673	MBA coarse flint Later BA intermediate flint	443	DR bucket urns with fingertip- impressed and fingertip- impressed, applied cordons	MBA	MBA
4685		4527	MBA coarse flint MBA intermediate flint	67	DR barrel- shaped jar	MBA	MBA

4. Pottery distribution

MBA activity focused on area 2. Most pottery of this date came from ditches, two of which apparently formed part of a sub-circular enclosure (ditches 4527 and 4673), and it was present in one post-hole (4557) and two pits (4589 and 4674). Several of these features also yielded finds of struck flint, artefactual and/or burnt stone. This is characteristic of domestic/settlement rather than 'funerary' activity. Only one feature which yielded pottery of this date was identified as a cremation.

LBA pottery was wider-spread, occurring across areas 1 and 2, again associated with struck flint, artefactual and/or burnt stone. Most LBA pottery from area 1 came from ditch 5210. It also occurred in pit 5011 nearby. In area 2 LBA pottery comes from ditch 4539, which references the MBA enclosure immediately to the south of it in the form — possibly — of a secondary enclosure ditch, and post-hole 4581. The feature and artefactual associations of the LBA assemblage are also characteristic of domestic/settlement activity. Saxon activity focused on area 1. Significant assemblages of Saxon pottery came from pit 5041, gullies 5238 and 5262, and ditches 5125 and 5174. Stratigraphically the two gullies overlies LBA ditch 5210.

5. *Research potential*

Interpretatively the key characteristics of the assemblage are its date range, its geographical location (on the Sussex Coastal Plain), its distribution in terms of feature type, its distribution spatially, and the range of types and sizes represented by it. To answer the questions posed below, direct comparison of its typology, size, fabrics and feature relationships with other, contemporary Sussex assemblages is needed.

5.1 *Middle Bronze Age pottery*

Recent distribution maps of MBA activity in Sussex show settlement to be restricted to the Downs (Greathorex 1999), whereas so-called ‘funerary’ assemblages, comprising DR pots apparently buried whole and sometimes associated with cremations, are widespread on both the Downs and on the Coastal Plain. Angmering does not fit this into this pattern. It is on the Coastal Plain and had both settlement and ‘funerary’ type contexts. As such it should provide a unique⁶ opportunity to examine the nature and extent of pottery using activity on the Coastal Plain and to compare it with that of the Downs. The following themes are of particular relevance to the study of the later Bronze Age pottery from Angmering.

- *Site deposition practices.* What is the nature of the pottery from Angmering? Does its deposition reflect everyday activity — be it functional or ritual — comparable to that which occurred on MBA sites locally, or does it reflect a unique event/situation, which rules out meaningful comparison with other assemblages?
- *Pot diversity.* Are current distribution maps of the period a true representation of the period or not? Do the pot types and feature relationships of the Angmering assemblage differ from those associated with contemporary Coastal Plain ‘funerary’ contexts or should the identification of the latter be re-assessed?
- *Settlement form and development.* How does the dating of the MBA pottery from Angmering (both sites) square with our knowledge of contemporary settlement on the Downs? Is the

⁶ Not any more — MST 2014

pottery (and the activities represented by it) the same and do the two assemblages relate to a single, contemporary settlement, or one that was accretional or shifting?

5.2 Late Bronze Age

In terms of the vessel types identified, the Angmering LBA assemblage bares a close resemblance to other Coastal Plain sites of similar date. Owing to its relatively small size, it offers little potential for research into themes such as *site deposition practices* and *pot diversity*. However, there is a possibility that it is close in date to its predecessor (*see above*) and its immediate context relationships are more extensive than those most frequently associated with LBA assemblages, and it may, therefore, offer some new insights into the nature of contemporary *settlement form and development*. Questions of interest are:

- Is the PDR assemblage wholly LBA or, like the Roundstone Lane assemblage, does it incorporate a later, LBA/EIA element? Do the identified feature relationships indicate settlement continuity or not? What new feature types are dated by the assemblage? Are these the same as or different from LBA features elsewhere? (The assemblage invites direct comparison with those from three downland sites which yielded both MBA and LBA pottery (Varley Halls and Downsview, north of Brighton, and Mile Oak, Shoreham: Hamilton 1997a; forthcoming a and b).

5.3 Saxon

As a dot on a distribution map, any new Sussex assemblage of this date is important, but owing to its small size, its imprecise date, and lack of internal associations, the present assemblage lacks potential for further detailed research. However, by comparing hand samples of Angmering fabrics to fabrics from better dated assemblages such as those from Chichester and Steyning its dating may be improved.

(January, 2002)



Roundstone Lane, Angmering, pot 46



Angmering Bypass pot 6



Angmering Bypass pot 9



Angmering Bypass pot 9